

## VOLUME 1

HOW TO COMMENT ON THIS DOCUMENT (inside front cover)

DEAR READER LETTER

HOW TO READ THIS DOCUMENT

GUIDE TO THE RMP AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) PROCESS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY

### CHAPTER 1 – PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION .....	1-1
1.2 PURPOSE OF THE RMP .....	1-1
1.3 NEED FOR THE RMP .....	1-1
1.4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.....	1-2
1.4.1 Scoping/Issue Development.....	1-4
1.4.2 Planning Criteria .....	1-5
1.4.3 Desired Future Conditions (DFC).....	1-5
1.4.4 Data Fair.....	1-5
1.4.5 Objectives and Management Actions.....	1-5
1.4.6 Preliminary Draft Alternatives .....	1-5
1.5 PLANNING ISSUES .....	1-5
1.6 DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS AND STANDARDS FOR THE NCA.....	1-13
1.6.1 Air Quality .....	1-14
1.6.2 Cultural and Tribal .....	1-14
1.6.3 Fish and Wildlife (includes Special Status Animals).....	1-14
1.6.4 Soil Resources.....	1-14
1.6.5 Vegetation .....	1-15
1.6.6 Visual Resources.....	1-16
1.6.7 Water Quality .....	1-16
1.6.8 Idaho Army National Guard.....	1-16
1.6.9 Lands and Realty .....	1-16
1.6.10 Livestock Grazing .....	1-17
1.6.11 Recreation .....	1-17
1.6.12 Renewable Energy .....	1-17
1.6.13 Transportation .....	1-17
1.6.14 Utility and Communication Corridors .....	1-17
1.6.15 Fire Ecology .....	1-17
1.6.16 Special Designations .....	1-17
1.6.17 Social and Economic Conditions .....	1-17
1.7 LAWS AND REGULATIONS THAT INFLUENCE THE SCOPE OF THIS DRAFT RMP/EIS.....	1-18



1.8 RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS.....	1-18
1.9 OVERVIEW OF THE BLM PLANNING PROCESS .....	1-18

## **CHAPTER 2 – INTRODUCTION TO AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

2.1 INTRODUCTION TO AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT .....	2-1
2.2 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT FOR RESOURCES AND RESOURCE USES IN THE NCA .....	2-2
2.2.1 Air Quality .....	2-2
2.2.2 Cultural and Tribal Resources .....	2-3
2.2.3 Fish and Wildlife .....	2-6
2.2.4 Geology .....	2-26
2.2.5 Paleontology .....	2-27
2.2.6 Special Status Species .....	2-27
2.2.6.1 Special Status Animals.....	2-27
2.2.6.2 Special Status Plants (SSP) .....	2-38
2.2.7 Soil Resources .....	2-39
2.2.8 Upland Vegetation.....	2-41
2.2.9 Water Quality, Riparian and Wetlands .....	2-48
2.2.10 Visual Resources .....	2-53
2.2.11 Wild Horses and Burros .....	2-55
2.2.12 Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG) .....	2-55
2.2.13 Lands and Realty .....	2-59
2.2.14 Livestock Grazing.....	2-62
2.2.15 Mineral Resources .....	2-65
2.2.15.1 Leasable Minerals .....	2-65
2.2.15.2 Mineral Materials .....	2-66
2.2.15.3 Locatable Minerals.....	2-66
2.2.16 Recreation.....	2-66
2.2.17 Renewable Energy .....	2-72
2.2.18 Transportation.....	2-72
2.2.19 Utility and Communication Corridors (Land Use Authorizations) .....	2-73
2.2.20 Wildland Fire Ecology and Management .....	2-74
2.2.21 Special Designations.....	2-76
2.2.22 Social and Economic Conditions.....	2-76
2.2.22.1 Economic Conditions .....	2-76
2.2.22.2 Environmental Justice .....	2-82
2.2.22.3 Hazardous Materials.....	2-83

## **CHAPTER 3 –ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION**

3.1 INTRODUCTION TO ALTERNATIVES .....	3-1
3.1.1 Implementation through Adaptive Management .....	3-1



3.1.2 Alternatives .....	3-2
3.1.2.1 Profile of the Four Alternatives .....	3-2
3.1.2.2 Alternatives Considered in Detail.....	3-2
3.1.2.3 Alternatives Considered but Not Analyzed in Detail .....	3-4
3.2 DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES .....	3-7
3.2.1 Air Quality .....	3-7
3.2.2 Cultural and Tribal Resources.....	3-8
3.2.3 Fish and Wildlife.....	3-11
3.2.4 Geology.....	3-17
3.2.5 Paleontology.....	3-17
3.2.6 Special Status Species.....	3-17
3.2.6.1 Special Status Animals .....	3-17
3.2.6.2 Special Status Plants .....	3-22
3.2.7 Soil Resources.....	3-25
3.2.8 Upland Vegetation .....	3-28
3.2.9 Water Quality, Riparian and Wetlands .....	3-35
3.2.10 Visual Resources.....	3-38
3.2.11 Wild Horses and Burros .....	3-40
3.2.12 Idaho Army National Guard.....	3-40
3.2.13 Lands and Realty.....	3-45
3.2.14 Livestock Grazing .....	3-48
3.2.15 Mineral Resources.....	3-52
3.2.15.1 Leasable Minerals.....	3-52
3.2.15.2 Mineral Materials .....	3-52
3.2.15.3 Locatable Minerals .....	3-53
3.2.16 Recreation .....	3-53
3.2.17 Renewable Energy .....	3-60
3.2.18 Transportation .....	3-60
3.2.19 Utility and Communication Corridors (Land Use Authorizations).....	3-67
3.2.20 Wildland Fire Ecology and Management.....	3-69
3.2.21 Special Designations .....	3-72
3.2.22 Social and Economic Conditions .....	3-72
3.2.22.1 Economic Conditions .....	3-72
3.2.22.2 Environmental Justice.....	3-75
3.2.22.3 Hazardous Materials .....	3-75
3.3 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS .....	3-76
3.3.1 Air Quality .....	3-76
3.3.2 Cultural and Tribal Resources.....	3-76
3.3.3 Fish and Wildlife.....	3-77
3.3.4 Geology .....	3-79



3.3.5 Paleontology .....	3-79
3.3.6 Special Status Species .....	3-79
3.3.6.1 Special Status Animals.....	3-79
3.3.6.2 Special Status Plants .....	3-81
3.3.7 Soil Resources .....	3-84
3.3.8 Upland Vegetation.....	3-85
3.3.9 Water Quality, Riparian, and Wetlands.....	3-86
3.3.10 Visual Resources .....	3-88
3.3.11 Wild Horses and Burros .....	3-89
3.3.12 Idaho Army National Guard.....	3-89
3.3.13 Lands and Realty .....	3-90
3.3.14 Livestock Grazing.....	3-90
3.3.15 Mineral Resources .....	3-91
3.3.15.1 Leasable Minerals .....	3-91
3.3.15.2 Mineral Materials.....	3-91
3.3.15.3 Locatable Minerals.....	3-91
3.3.16 Recreation.....	3-91
3.3.17 Renewable Energy.....	3-92
3.3.18 Transportation.....	3-92
3.3.19 Utility and Communication Corridors (Land Use Authorizations) .....	3-93
3.3.20 Wildland Fire Ecology and Management .....	3-93
3.3.21 Special Designations.....	3-93
3.3.22 Social and Economic Conditions.....	3-93
3.3.22.1 Economic Conditions .....	3-93
3.3.22.2 Environmental Justice .....	3-94
3.3.22.3 Hazardous Materials.....	3-94

## **CHAPTER 4 – ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

4.1 INTRODUCTION .....	4-1
4.1.1 Impact Analysis Descriptors.....	4-1
4.1.2 Chapter Organization.....	4-2
4.2 DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS BY RESOURCE AND RESOURCE USE .....	4-3
4.2.1 Air Quality .....	4-3
4.2.2 Cultural and Tribal Resources .....	4-4
4.2.3 Fish and Wildlife .....	4-12
4.2.4 Geology .....	4-23
4.2.5 Paleontology .....	4-23
4.2.6 Special Status Species .....	4-23
4.2.6.1 Special Status Animals.....	4-23
4.2.6.2 Special Status Plants .....	4-36
4.2.7 Soil Resources .....	4-50



4.2.8 Upland Vegetation .....	4-57
4.2.9 Water Quality, Riparian and Wetlands .....	4-72
4.2.10 Visual Resources.....	4-81
4.2.11 Wild Horses and Burros .....	4-88
4.2.12 Idaho Army National Guard.....	4-89
4.2.13 Lands and Realty.....	4-92
4.2.14 Livestock Grazing .....	4-94
4.2.15 Mineral Resources.....	4-100
4.2.15.1 Leasable Minerals.....	4-100
4.2.15.2 Mineral Materials .....	4-100
4.2.15.3 Locatable Minerals .....	4-101
4.2.16 Recreation .....	4-101
4.2.17 Renewable Energy .....	4-108
4.2.18 Transportation.....	4-108
4.2.19 Utility and Communication Corridors (Land Use Authorization) .....	4-112
4.2.20 Wildland Fire Ecology and Management.....	4-112
4.2.21 Special Designations .....	4-112
4.2.22 Social and Economic Conditions .....	4-112
4.2.22.1 Economic .....	4-112
4.2.22.2 Environmental Justice.....	4-118
4.3 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS .....	4-118
4.3.1 Description of this Section.....	4-118
4.3.2 Regional Influences.....	4-119
4.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS BY RESOURCE AND RESOURCE USE .....	4-124
4.4.1 Air Quality: Cumulative Impacts .....	4-124
4.4.2 Cultural and Tribal Resources: Cumulative Impacts .....	4-124
4.4.3 Fish and Wildlife: Cumulative Impacts .....	4-125
4.4.4 Special Status Animals: Cumulative Impacts .....	4-127
4.4.5 Special Status Plants: Cumulative Impacts .....	4-128
4.4.6 Soil Resources: Cumulative Impacts .....	4-130
4.4.7 Upland Vegetation: Cumulative Impacts .....	4-132
4.4.8 Water Quality, Riparian, and Wetlands: Cumulative Impacts .....	4-133
4.4.9 Visual Resources: Cumulative Impacts .....	4-136
4.4.10 Idaho Army National Guard: Cumulative Impacts .....	4-137
4.4.11 Lands and Realty: Cumulative Impacts .....	4-137
4.4.12 Livestock Grazing: Cumulative Impacts.....	4-137
4.4.13 Mineral Resources: Cumulative Impacts .....	4-138
4.4.14 Recreation: Cumulative Impacts .....	4-139
4.4.15 Transportation: Cumulative Impacts.....	4-141



4.4.16 Utility and Communication Corridors (Land Use Authorizations):	
Cumulative Impacts .....	4-142
4.4.17 Wildland Fire Ecology and Management: Cumulative Impacts.....	4-142
4.4.18 Social and Economic Conditions: Cumulative Impacts .....	4-142
4.5 SUMMARY OF CUMULATIVE IMPACTS .....	4-143
4.6 IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES.....	4-144
4.7 UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS.....	4-145
4.8 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL SHORT-TERM USES AND LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY.....	4-145

## **CHAPTER 5 – PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING**

5.1 INTRODUCTION .....	5-1
5.2 ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT.....	5-1
5.3 IMPLEMENTATION.....	5-1
5.4 MONITORING.....	5-2
5.5 EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT – FUTURE CHANGES TO THE RMP.....	5-6
5.6 COLLABORATION IN IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING .....	5-7

## **CHAPTER 6 – CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION**

6.1 INTRODUCTION .....	6-1
6.2 COLLABORATIVE PLANNING PROCESS .....	6-1
6.3 STRUCTURED CHECKPOINTS.....	6-2
6.3.1 Interdisciplinary Team.....	6-2
6.3.2 Tribal Consultation .....	6-3
6.3.3 Other Formal Consultation .....	6-3
6.3.4 Coordination with Organized Entities (RAC, ICG, Cooperating Agencies) .....	6-4
6.3.5 General Public and Other Collaborative Activities .....	6-5
6.4 COLLABORATIVE ASSESSMENT.....	6-5
6.5 FUTURE COLLABORATION .....	6-5
6.6 LIST OF RECIPIENTS .....	6-6
6.6.1 American Indian Tribes .....	6-6
6.6.2 Government Agencies and Representatives .....	6-6
6.6.3 Business Organizations and Other Groups .....	6-7
6.7 KEY COLLABORATIVE EVENTS FOR NCA RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN .....	6-8
6.8 LIST OF PRINT AND BROADCAST MEDIA.....	6-9



## List of Tables

<b>Table 1.1.</b> Collaborative Events for NCA Resource Management Plan.....	1-4	
<b>Table 1.2.</b> Relevant Issues Raised During Scoping .....	1-6	
 <b>Vegetation Table 2.1.</b> Vegetation Community Composition for the NCA Based on 2001 Remote Sensing Data. Percentages Within Each Area are Based on the Acreage Totals for the Six General Vegetation Classifications.....		2-41
<b>Vegetation Table 2.2.</b> Known Populations of Noxious Weeds and Estimated Area Occupied in the NCA, 1996-2003.....	2-43	
<b>Vegetation Table 2.3.</b> Changes in Spatial Distribution of Vegetation between 1979 and 1998 for Area 1, Area 2, Area 3, and the Total NCA.....	2-44	
<b>VRM Table 2.1.</b> Visual Resource Management Classes in the NCA. ....	2-54	
<b>Lands Table 2.1.</b> Number of Realty Cases Completed, 1993 to 2002.....	2-60	
<b>Lands Table 2.2.</b> Federal Land Withdrawals in the NCA.....	2-60	
<b>Lands Table 2.3.</b> NCA Land Disposals and Acquisitions from 1988 to 2005.....	2-62	
<b>Grazing Table 2.1.</b> Allotments or Pastures to be Managed as Exotic Annual Rangelands. ....	2-64	
<b>Recreation Table 2.1.</b> Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Acres.....	2-70	
<b>Fire Table 2.1.</b> NCA Fire Management Units with Suppression and Fuels Management Objectives.....	2-75	
<b>Socio-Economic Table 2.1.</b> Public Land in the NCA in Four Idaho Counties. ....	2-76	
<b>Socio-Economic Table 2.2.</b> Population Data for Idaho Counties and Cities In and Around the NCA in 1990 and 2000.....	2-77	
<b>Socio-Economic Table 2.3.</b> Population by Race or Racial Group in Four Idaho Counties.....	2-78	
<b>Socio-Economic Table 2.4.</b> Employment Status for Four Idaho Counties. ....	2-78	
<b>Socio-Economic Table 2.5.</b> Motorbike and ATV Registration Numbers for Calendar Years 1998 through 2002 for Ada, Canyon, Elmore, and Owyhee Counties, Idaho.....	2-81	
<b>Socio-Economic Table 2.6.</b> Recreational Vehicle (i.e., Motor Homes, Camping Trailers, Van Conversions, and Truck-mounted Campers) Registration Numbers for Calendar Years 1998 through 2002 for Ada, Canyon, Elmore, and Owyhee Counties, Idaho.....	2-81	
 <b>Air Table 3.1.</b> Objectives and Management Actions by Alternative for Air Quality.....	3-8	
<b>Cultural and Tribal Table 3.1.</b> Objectives and Management Actions by Alternative for Cultural and Tribal Resources.....	3-10	
<b>Fish and Wildlife Table 3.1.</b> Objectives and Management Actions by Alternative for Fish and Wildlife.....	3-15	
<b>Special Status Animals Table 3.1.</b> Objectives and Management Actions by Alternative for Special Status Animals.....	3-20	
<b>Special Status Plants Table 3.1.</b> Objectives and Management Actions by Alternative for Special Status Plants.....	3-24	
<b>Soil Table 3.1.</b> Objectives and Management Actions by Alternative for Soil Resources. ....	3-27	

<b>Upland Vegetation Table 3.1.</b> Objectives and Management Actions by Alternative for Upland Vegetation Resources .....	3-33
<b>Water Quality, Riparian and Wetlands Table 3.1.</b> Objectives and Management Actions by Alternative for Water Quality, Riparian, and Wetlands.....	3-37
<b>Visual Resources Table 3.1.</b> Objectives and Management Actions by Alternative for Visual Resource Management.....	3-40
<b>Idaho Army National Guard Table 3.1.</b> Objectives and Management Actions by Alternative for the IDARNG .....	3-43
<b>Lands and Realty Table 3.1.</b> Objectives and Management Actions by Alternative for Lands and Realty.....	3-47
<b>Livestock Grazing Table 3.1.</b> Objectives and Management Actions by Alternative for Livestock Grazing .....	3-51
<b>Minerals Table 3.1.</b> Objectives and Management Actions by Alternative for Mineral Materials.....	3-53
<b>Recreation Table 3.1.</b> Objectives and Management Actions by Alternative for Recreation.....	3-58
<b>Transportation Table 3.1.</b> Route Designation Criteria – Route Use.....	3-62
<b>Transportation Table 3.2.</b> Route Designation Criteria – Concerns.....	3-63
<b>Transportation Table 3.3.</b> Route Designation Criteria – Current Use .....	3-64
<b>Transportation Table 3.4.</b> Objectives and Management Actions by Alternative for Transportation.....	3-66
<b>Utility and Communication Corridor Table 3.1.</b> Objectives and Management Actions by Alternative for Utility and Communication Corridors .....	3-68
<b>Wildland Fire Ecology and Management Table 3.1.</b> Objectives and Management Actions by Alternative for Wildland Fire Ecology and Management .....	3-71
<b>Economics Table 3.1.</b> Objectives and Management Actions by Alternative for Social and Economic Resources.....	3-72
<b>Hazardous Materials Table 3.1.</b> Objectives and Management Actions by Alternative for Hazardous Materials. ....	3-75
<b>Impacts Table 3.1.</b> Summary of Impacts.....	3-76
<b>Impacts Table 3.2.</b> Summary of Cumulative Impacts.....	3-95
<b>Special Status Table 4.1.</b> Special Status Animal Species Habitat Associations.....	4-23
<b>Water Quality Table 4.1.</b> Representative Functioning Condition Ratings on BLM Stream Miles Outside of the NCA, but within the Region.....	4-135
<b>Table 5.1.</b> Landscape-level Measures of the Effectiveness of Implementing the NCA RMP. Changes in these Indicators Would Help Determine Progress Toward Meeting DFC .....	5-3
<b>Table 5.2.</b> Landscape-level Measures of the Effectiveness of Implementing the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area RMP. Changes in these Indicators Would Help Determine if Objectives are Being Met.....	5-4
<b>Table 6.1.</b> Key Collaborative Events.....	6-8
<b>Table 6.2.</b> List of Print and Broadcast Media Used to Disseminate Information .....	6-9



## List of Figures

<b>Figure 1.1.</b> Percentage of Comments by Category .....	1-5
<b>Wildlife Figure 2.1.</b> Wildlife Usage of the NCA .....	2-7
<b>Wildlife Figure 2.2.</b> Location of 10-km Units in the NCA and Mean Number of Prairie Falcon Pairs by 10-km Unit, 1976 to 2002. The First Figure Shows the Areas Sampled (with Identification Number for Each), and the Associated Graph Shows the Average Number of Nesting Prairie Falcons Pairs Found in Each of the Sampled Units. ....	2-13
<b>Wildlife Figure 2.3.</b> Number of Young Prairie Falcons Fledged Per Pair, 1974-2003.....	2-14
<b>Wildlife Figure 2.4.</b> Status of Nesting Golden Eagles in the NCA, 1971 to 2004.....	2-16
<b>Wildlife Figure 2.5.</b> Total Number of Young Golden Eagles Fledged in the NCA in Relation to Black-tailed Jackrabbit Densities. Horizontal Line Equals the Long-term Mean of the Number of Eagles Fledged, 1971 to 2004. ....	2-17
<b>Wildlife Figure 2.6.</b> The Relationship of the Percentage of Ground Squirrels in the Diet of Nesting Prairie Falcons and the Number of Young Prairie Falcons Fledged Per Nesting Pair from 1984 – 1987 in the NCA.....	2-21
<b>Wildlife Figure 2.7.</b> The Number of Mice and Kangaroo Rats (K-rats) Observed from 1982-1994 on Spotlight Transects In and Near the NCA.....	2-24
<b>Wildlife Figure 2.8.</b> Brewer's and Sage Sparrow Breeding Territories in Old Big Sagebrush Stand in the NCA, 1992 to 2003.....	2-35
<b>Vegetation Figure 2.1.</b> Percent Shrub Cover by Management Area.....	2-44
<b>Vegetation Figure 2.2.</b> Percent of Area Burned Between 1957 and 2004.....	2-45
<b>Socio-Economic Figure 2.1.</b> Percentage of Farm and Non-farm Income in Four Idaho Counties in 2001.....	2-79
<b>Socio-Economic Figure 2.2.</b> Per Capita Personal Income in Four Idaho Counties in 2001.....	2-79
<b>Socio-Economic Figure 2.3.</b> Farm and Nonfarm Earnings by County.....	2-80
<b>Figure 3.1.</b> Alternative Comparison. ....	3-4
<b>Figure 4.1.</b> Ada County Population Growth.....	4-119
<b>Figure 4.2.</b> Canyon County Population Growth. ....	4-120
<b>Figure 5.1.</b> The Adaptive Management Process.....	5-1
<b>Figure 6.1.</b> The Collaborative Process.....	6-3

## VOLUME 2

### List of Appendices

Appendix 1.	NCA Enabling Legislation .....	1
Appendix 2.	Planning Criteria .....	9
Appendix 3.	Special Status Species Animals.....	17
Appendix 4.	Fish and Wildlife in the NCA.....	19
Appendix 5.	General Characteristics of Raptors in the NCA .....	27
Appendix 6.	Nesting Characteristics of Raptors in the NCA – 1970-94. ....	29
Appendix 7.	Number of Occupied Raptor Nesting Territories in the NCA – 1970-2004.....	31
Appendix 8.	BLM Special Status Plant Species (Sensitive & Watch) Known to Occur in the NCA.....	33
Appendix 9.	Grazing Allotments in the NCA.1 .....	35
Appendix 10.	Mineral Material Sites in the NCA. ....	37
Appendix 11.	Slickspot Peppergrass Conservation Measures.....	39
Appendix 12.	Socio Economics Baseline Data.....	57
Appendix 13.	List of Preparers.....	61
Appendix 14.	References.....	65
Appendix 15.	Maps .....	83
	Management Area Map .....	85
	Cultural Map .....	86
	Fire Map.....	87
	Grazing Maps.....	88
	Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG) Maps .....	95
	Lands and Realty Maps.....	100
	Minerals Map.....	107
	Planning Maps .....	108
	Recreation Maps .....	111
	Soils Map .....	124
	Special Status Plants Maps .....	125
	Transportation Maps .....	127
	Vegetation Maps .....	132
	Visual Resource Management (VRM) Maps.....	139
	Wildlife Map .....	143
Appendix 16.	Glossary (Terms, Acronyms, and Abbreviations) .....	145

